

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

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R 080783Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6306

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 MANILA 10939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER)

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 10811

SUMMARY: CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF AND 10 OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS VISITED THE PHILIPPINES FROM AUGUST 4 TO 6. AFTER DISCUSSIONS AT EMBASSY, THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC SITUATION BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR AND CABINET-LEVEL TECHNOCRATS. PRESIDENT MARCOS DISCUSSED THE BASES ISSUE AND JUSTIFIED CONTINUATION OF HIS "CRISIS GOVERNMENT," REPEATING REMARKS HE HAD MADE TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ABOUT POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL. MARCOS PRESS FOR "NORMALIZATION OF TRADE" AND CRITICIZED PREJUDICIAL US TARIFFS ON PHILIPPINE PRODUCTS. AFTER PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON CONGRESSMEN BROKE DOWN INTO FOUR TASK FORCES AND MET WITH CABINET OFFICIALS IN THEIR AREAS OF INTEREST. SECRETARY ROMULO TOLD THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS GROUP THAT US BASE PRESENCE DIMINISHES GOP CREDIBILITY IN ASEAN. IN RESPONSE TO CODEL INQUIRY, HE STATED BASES WERE ESSENTIAL FOR US AND REGION'S SECURITY AND SAID THIS WAS ALSO VIEW OF REGIONAL POWERS. IN SHORT SESSION WITH OPPOSITION, CONGRESSMEN INQUIRED ABOUT CONDITIONS WHICH LED TO IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW AND OPPOSITION'S VIEWS ON US ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINES. OPPOSITION REPLIED US ASSISTANCE ENABLED MARCOS CONTINUE HIS REPRESSIVE REGIME. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENSE TASK FORCE, SECRETARY ENRILE
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REPEATED PRESIDENT'S LINE ON BASES AND MADE PITCH FOR

CONTINUED MILITARY ASSISTANCE. DURING SESSION WITH ECONOMIC TASK FORCE, SECRETARY VIRATA REITERATED PRESIDENT'S APPEAL FOR REMOVAL OF DUTY ON COCONUT OIL AND DISCRIMINATORY MARGIN OF DUTY ON PHILIPPINE MAHOGANY PLYWOOD. VIRATA SAID HE WAS INFORMED US WOULD BE UNABLE CONCLUDE ANY AGREEMENT ON TARIFF CONCESSIONS UNTIL AFTER '76 ELECTION AND INDICATED HE THOUGHT US-GOP BILATERAL ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS WOULD ALSO BE PROTRACTED. PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK VP TOLD AGRICULTURAL TASK FORCE GOP WOULD LIKE TO SEE US SUGAR BILL ALONG SAME LINES AS THAT WHICH EXISTED PRIOR TO DEC. 31, 1974. HE WAS TOLD CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY NOT ACT ON NEW SUGAR LEGISLATION IN NEXT SESSION. AMBASSADOR HOSTED RECEPTION IN CODEL'S HONOR EVENING AUGUST 5 WHICH MARKED BY EXCELLENT TURN-OUT HIGH-LEVEL GOP OFFICIALS. PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO CODEL VISIT WITH FRONT-PAGE PICTURES OF CODEL MEETING MARCOS. PRESS STORIES EMPHASIZED MARCOS'S COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. EDITORIAL IN AUGUST 7 EXPRESS NOTES THAT "CONGRESSIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION IS IN TOWN" AND "THIS TIME WE TRUST IN THEIR SENSE OF FAIRNESS." CONGRESSMEN SEEMED QUITE PLEASED WITH THEIR SCHEDULE, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME GOOD-NATURED COMPLAINTS IT HAD BEEN MUCH TOO ARDUOUS. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF AND 10 OTHER MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VISITED PHILIPPINES FROM AUGUST 4 TO 6.

2. CONGRESSMEN SOLARZ, MENETA, GILMAN AND SIMON BEGAN AUGUST 5 AT BREAKFAST WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR EMILIO ABELLO. TALK RANGED OVER ANTECEDENTS OF MARTIAL LAW, THE PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARD IT, AND POLITICAL PRISONERS. ABELLO RESPONSES TO SOLARZ QUESTIONS ON THESE POINTS WERE PREDICTABLY BLAND, GIVEN LARGE AND DIVERSE FILIPINO PRESENCE AT BREAKFAST. SOLARZ WAS MOST TAKEN BY ABELLO COMMENTS ABOUT THE PRE/POST-MARTIAL LAW PEACE AND ORDER SITUATIONS, AND ESPECIALLY THE COLLECTION OF LOOSE FIREARMS. SOLARZ TOLD A SMALL GROUP AROUND HIM THE PHILIPPINES WAS RECEIVING VERY BAD PRESS IN THE US BUT THE FIREARMS AND PEACE AND ORDER STORIES WERE NOT WELL KNOWN AND WOULD STRIKE A VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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SYMPATHETIC CHORD, ESPECIALLY IN HIS HOME DISTRICT OF BROOKLYN9

3. AFTER DISCUSSIONS AT EMBASSY MORNING AUGUST 5, CODEL PROCEEDED TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING WHERE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR PRESIDED OVER CABINET BRIEFING. BRIEFING WAS EXCELLENT. THERE WAS NO OVERLAPPING AND BRIEFERS FRANK ABOUT PROBLEMS GOP EXPERIENCING IN SUCH AREAS AS

POPULATION CONTROL AND LAND REFORM. BRIEFING WAS RESTRICTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS WITH PRESENTATIONS ON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, LAND REFORM, POPULATION AND POWER.

4. AFTER CABINET BRIEFING, PRESIDENT MET WITH LEGISLATORS AND OFFERED LUNCHEON IN THEIR HONOR. ENTIRE SESSION LASTED THREE HOURS. MARCOS'S COMMENTS ON BASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN MANILA 10811. PRESIDENT ALSO DISCUSSED HIS "CRISIS GOVERNMENT," MAINTAINING ITS GREATEST PROBLEM WAS SUBVERSION WHICH REQUIRED CLOSE ATTENTION TO SATISFYING ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE. PRESIDENT ATTEMPTED CONVEY IMPRESSION

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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HE WAS GENUINELY ANXIOUS TO END "CRISIS GOVERNMENT" (HE NEVER ONCE REFERRED TO MARTIAL LAW) BUT INDICATED HE COULD NOT DO SO UNLESS THREE CONDITIONS OBTAINED: (A) TERMINATION OF "WAR OF THE SESSION IN THE SOUTH WHICH RESULTED FROM FOREIGN INTERVENTION, IN FACT NOW PROVEN"; (B) ENDING OF ECONOMIC CRISIS, INCLUDING SATISFYING ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE; (C) NO FURTHER CIRSES DEVELOPING. PRESIDENT REPEATED REMARKS HE HAD MADE TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ON LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MANILA 10750), EMPHASIZING THAT (A) CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN RATIFIED AND (B) PEOPLE HAD REJECTED CONVENING INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY 9 TO 1 MARGIN. PRESIDENT SAID PEOPLE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THAT THIS WAS BEING STUDIED.

5. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, MARCOS PRESSED FOR "NORMALIZATION OF TRADE." HE REFERRED TO PREJUDICIAL TARIFF IMPOSED BY US

ON PHILIPPINE PRODUCTS SUCH AS COCONUT OIL AND MAHOGANY RELATIVE TO SIMILAR PRODUCTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. IN CONTRAST, PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD MADE QUITE A NUMBER OF CONCESSIONS TO US BUSINESS AFTER TERMINATION OF LAUREL-LANGLEY AGREEMENT.

6. TASK FORCE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CONGRESSMEN WOLFF, YATRON, GILMAN, GUYER AND SOLARZ) MET WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON. ROMULO MAINTAINED US BASE PRESENCE MAKES GOP "TROJAN HORSE" IN ASEAN AND THIS IS WHY CHANGES NECESSARY. ROMULO SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT WHEN BRITS LEFT SINGAPORE, THEY GAVE \$150 MILLION TO ENABLE TRANSFER OF NAVAL FACILITIES THERE TO SINGAPORIAN AUTHORITY. CHAIRMAN WOLFF QUICKLY INTERJECTED AMERICANS VERY SENSITIVE ON THIS SUBJECT. HE WANTED ROMULO TO KNOW AMERICANS CONSIDERED CASH PAYMENTS FOR BEING PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN COUNTRY WERE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF US BASES WAS MUTUAL SECURITY "BLACKMAIL." ROMULO QUICKLY DROPPED SUBJECT OF SPECIAL PAYMENTS BUT DID REFER TO "RENT" FOR US BASES. IN REPLY TO QUESTION FROM CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ, ROMULO SAID BASES WERE ESSENTIAL FOR US AND REGIONAL SECURITY, AND SAID OTHER NATIONS OF REGION, ESPECIALLY INDONESIA, JAPAN AND PRC, SUPPORT CONTINUED US PRESENCE IN PHILIPPINES.

7. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF UN MATTERS, ESPECIALLY POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OF EXPULSION OF ISREAL. ROMULO SAID GOP OPPOSED EXPULSION BUT HAD NOT MADE UP ITS MIND ON SUSPENSION. CODEL INDICATED SUSPENSION WOULD LEAD TO SAME PROBLEMS AS FAR AS US CONCERNED AS EXPULSION. SOLARZ ASKED WHETHER THREAT OF ARAB SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM INSURGENTS WAS FORCING GOP SUPPORT RADICAL ARAB, AFRO-ASIAN STANDS AT UN. ROMULO SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL STATEMENTS BY ARABS THAT THEY WOULD CUT OFF GOP OIL IF GOPP ADOPTS MORE AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY IN SOUTH BUT GOP IS WARY OF OIL EMBARGO. ABOVE ALL, GOP WISHES TO PREVENT INSURRECTION IN SOUTH FROM BECOMING JIHAD.

8. CONGRESSMEN DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH PRESIDENT BUT CONGRESSMAN WOLFF ASKED ROMULO ABOUT SENATOR AQUINO. ROMULO ANSWERED BY SAYING AQUINO WAS "ANTI-AMERICAN." ROMULO SAID LOPEZ AND OSMENA WERE PARTICIPANTS IN ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST PRESIDENT AND DESERVED TO BE IN PRISON.

9. AFTER MEETING WITH ROMULO, FOREIGN AFFAIRS TASK FORCE LESS CONGRESSMAN GUYER MET WITH OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AT HOME OF SENATOR SALONGA. IN ADDITION TO SALONGA, SENATORS

ROXAS, RODRIGO, TANADA, KALAW AND FORMER CONGRESSMAN
FELIPE PARTICIPATED. ANTICIPATING CONGRESSMEN WOULD BE
PRESSED FOR TIME, SENATOR SALONGA DISTRIBUTED RATHER
LENGTHY ANALYSIS OF MARTIAL LAW AND PROJECTION FOR GOP
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FUTURE. (IT WILL BE POUCHED EA/PHL.) CONGRESSMEN'S
QUESTIONS WERE PRIMARILY DIRECTED TOWARD CONDITIONS
HERE. OPPOSITION CLAIMED THERE WAS INCREASING DISSATIS-
FACTION WITH MARTIAL LAW AND ARGUED MARCOS MISMANAGING
COUNTRY. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF ASKED ABOUT LEGISLATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL. SENATOR TANADA SAID HE WAS CONVINCED
PRESIDENT HAD MENTIONED IT PRIMARILY OUT OF EMBARRASSMENT
DURING VISIT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS. SENATOR ROXAS
POINTED OUT COUNCIL WOULD BE ADVISORY IN NATURE AND RUBBER
STAMP FOR MARCOS. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ASKED OPPOSITION
WHAT THEY THOUGHT ABOUT CONTINUED US ASSISTANCE TO
PHILIPPINES. SENATOR KALAW (WHO WAS PARTICIPATING IN ONE
OF THESE SESSIONS FOR FIRST TIME) SAID US ASSISTANCE
ENABLED MARCOS TO REMAIN IN POWER AND THEREFORE CONTRIBUTED
TO REPRESSION. SENATOR ROXAS (WHO IS OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF
CONGRESSMAN WOLFF) SAID THAT MARCOS'S ARGUMENTS FOR IM-
POSING MARTIAL LAW WERE SPECIOUS. HE EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT
WAS IN CONTROL OF CONGRESS DURING PRE-MARTIAL LAW PERIOD.
ROXAS SAID THAT PRESIDENT'S ARGUMENTS ABOUT "CRISIS
GOVERNMENT" WOULD ALLOW HIM TO REMAIN IN POWER PERMANENTLY.
SINCE NO SOCIETY IS PERFECT. ROXAS SAID MARCOS CANNOT
TOLERATE ANY DISSIDENT VOICES IN PUBLIC AND THIS IS WHY
ANY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS ANATHEMA TO HIM.

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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10. AFTER AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION EVENING AUGUST 5, REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH FIVE STUDENT LEADERS FROM MAJOR MANILA UNIVERSITIES AND DISCUSSION CENTERED ON STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS MARTIAL LAW AND MARCOS, WHICH SOLARZ HIMSELF SUMMARIZED AT END OF SESSION AS APPARENTLY APATHETIC AND ONLY MILDLY OPPOSITIONIST.

11. DEFENSE TASK FORCE (CONGRESSMEN BADILLO, MINETA AND BYERS) CALLED ON SECRETARY ENRILE, WHO TOUCHED LIGHTLY ON BASE ISSUE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS AND CURRENT PHILIPPINE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION. CONCERNING BASES ENRILE SAID THAT, "WE DON'T WANT TO PUSH YOUR FORCES OUT BUT, AS THE PRESIDENT INDICATED THIS MORNING, WE DON'T APPEAR INDEPENDENT UNDER THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRECEPTIONS OF OUR NEIGHBORS." ENRILE WENT ON TO SAY, "WE WANT TO REVAMP THE PARAMETERS OF THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT WITH A VIEW TO PUTTING PARTS OF THE BASES TO OUR OWN USE." IN DISCUSSING MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS, ENRILE SAID GOP WILL NEED HELP IN BUILDING UP ITS NAVAL AND AIR CAPABILITIES. HE DESCRIBED PHILIPPINE GROUND FORCES AS REASONABLY WELL EQUIPPED FOR TIME BEING. REGARDING CURRENT INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS, DEFENSE SECRETARY REVIEWED SITUATION IN NORTH AND IN MINDANAO ALONG FAMILIAR LINES.

12. DURING HOUR-LONG PRIVATE TALK WITH FINANCE SECRETARY VIRATA ATTENDED BY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, CONGRESSMEN CLANCY AND SIMON DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC

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NEGOTIATIONS AND CLANCY BRIEFED THE SECRETARY ON TAX REFORM MOVES IN THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, NOTING PROSPECT THAT CREDITS FOR OVERSEAS TAX PAYMENTS COULD WELL BE REVISED TO TAXABLE INCOME DEDUCTIONS. VIRATA RANGED OVER TRADE INTERESTS OF PHILIPPINES, REITERATING PRESIDENT MARCOS'S APPEAL FOR REMOVAL OF DUTY ON COCONUT OIL AND OF 10 PERCENT DISCRIMINATORY MARGIN OF DUTY ON PHILIPPINE MAHOGANY PLYWOOD. VIRATA TOLD THE CONGRESSMEN THAT HIS SOURCES IN GENEVA WERE SAYING THE US WOULD BE UNABLE CONCLUDE ANY AGREEMENT ON TARIFF CONCESSIONS UNTIL AFTER '76 ELECTIONS. HE INDICATED THAT US BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE PHILIPPINES WOULD NO DOUBT BE CORRESPONDINGLY STRUNG OUT. ON DISCUSSION OF PENDING US/RP DOUBLE TAXATION TALKS, VIRATA CITED GOP INTEREST IN TAX SPARING CONCEPT. CLANCY STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT FROM VIEWPOINT HIS COMMITTEE,

THE IDEA WOULD NOT FLY.

13. AGRICULTURAL TASK FORCE (CONGRESSMAN DE LA GARZA) DISCUSSED PHILIPPINE SUGAR MARKETING WITH PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK VICE PRESIDENT MARAMAG. MARAMAG SAID ONE OF GOP'S MAJOR PROBLEMS IN SELLING SUGAR IN OTHER COUNTRIES IS THAT INDUSTRY IS GEARED TO US MARKET. HE CLAIMED SUGAR PLANTERS WERE FACED WITH SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THAT UNLESS COSTS OF INPUTS DECLINED OR SUGAR PRICES INCREASED OUTPUT WAS LIKELY TO DECLINE FROM CURRENT LEVELS. MARAMAG SAID HE THOUGHT GOP WOULD LIKE TO SEE NEW US SUGAR BILL ALONG SAME LINES AS EXISTED PRIOR TO DEC. 31, 1974.

CONGRESSMAN DE LA GARZA INDICATED HE DID NOT BELIEVE CONGRESS WOULD ACT ON NEW SUGAR LEGISLATION IN ITS NEXT SESSION. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TANCO REVIEWED GOP PLANS IN THE BEEF AND DAIRY SECTORS AND ROLE US MIGHT PLAY IN THEIR EXPANSION. TANCO SAID PRESIDENT WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN LARGE IMPORTS OF BREEDING CATTLE. SECRETARY INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE LARGE-SCALE JOINT VENTURES AND SAID DOOR WAS OPEN TO US INVESTORS. TANCO SAID EXPANSION OF DAIRY INDUSTRY IS MORE DIFFICULT BUT THE GOP MUST INCREASE ITS PRODUCTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS SINCE IMPORTS TOTAL SOME \$75 MILLION AND ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY 90 PERCENT OF DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. MAIN PROBLEM HERE IS VERY HIGH COST OF TIN PLATE. TANCO SAID GOP WOULD WELCOME US IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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VESTMENT AND EXPERTISE IN BOTH PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING OF BOTH DAIRY AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.

14. PRESS TREATMENT: CODEL'S VISIT GIVEN FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN ALL MORNING DAILIES AUGUST 6. PRIMARY EMPHASIS WAS ON PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND PHILIPPINES. BULLETIN TODAY HEADLINED ITS ACCOUNT, "NORMALIZATION OF TRADE WITH US PROPOSED." EXPRESS HEADLINE WAS MORE TRUCULENT, "FM TO US: REMOVE TRADE OBSTACLES." IN DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL AUGUST 7, ENTITLED, "TIME TO CORRECT AGE-OLD MISTAKES," EDITORIALIST NOTES THREE FACT-FINDING MISSION FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ARE NOW IN TOWN (US CODEL, EUROPEAN AND KOREAN PARLIAMENTARIANS) AND SAYS, "THIS TIME WE TRUST IN THEIR SENSE OF FAIRNESS. THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN EXHAUSTIVE BRIEFINGS FROM KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES AND THEY HAVE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK FOR THEMSELVES WHAT THE REAL SITUATION IS." REGIME SPOKESMAN VALENCIA IN LEAD ITEM IN HIS AUGUST 7 COLUMN NOTES VISITING AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN ARE IN TOWN TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES HOW PHILIPPINES IS FARING. "AT LEAST, THEY KNOW NOW HOW MISLEADING THE PRESS REPORTS IN AMERICAN MAGAZINES AND LEADING NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN. THEY KNOW NOW

THAT OUR DESIRE TO REGAIN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THOSE MILITARY BASES IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR NATIONAL DIGNITY AND NOT A GIMMICK TO GET AMERICANS TO INCREASE THEIR AID TO THIS COUNTRY."

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15. COMMENT: VISITING CONGRESSMEN RECEIVED ALL OF THE HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS THEY HAD REQUESTED. THEY EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION WITH THEIR PROGRAM BUT COMPLAINED GOOD-NATUREDLY ABOUT ITS ARDUOUS NATURE. GOP PUT ITS VERY BEST FOOT FORWARD. CONGRESSMEN SEEMED GENUINELY IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT AND BY TECHNOCRATS THEY ENCOUNTERED DURING CABINET BRIEFINGS AND ASK FORCE SESSIONS. COMMENTS BY VISITING CONGRESSMEN ON MOOD OF THEIR US CONSTITUENTS, PARTICULARLY CHAIRMAN WOLFF'S REMARK TO ROMULO THAT AMERICANS ABHOR WHAT THEY PERCEIVE OF AS EFFORTS TO EXTORT UNREASONABLE AMOUNTS FOR CONTINUED US BASE PRESENCE HERE, HOPEFULLY HAD SALUTARY EFFECT ON GOP OFFICIALDOM. CONGRESSMEN DID NOT PLACE EXTRAORDINARY EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE BUT MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN SESSION WITH OPPOSITION COMMENTED THEY FOUND MEETING MOST USEFUL.

16. IN SUMMARY WE BELIEVE THIS WAS A VERY USEFUL VISIT. THE CODEL WAS COMPOSED OF MEMBERS WHO GAVE AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION OF THEIR SERIOUS PURPOSE. IT WAS PARTICULARLY VALUABLE TO HAVE SOME FRESHMEN MEMBERS IN THE GROUP, SINCE FILIPINOS HAVE HAD SERIOUS WORRIES ABOUT THE ALLEGED NEO-ISOLATIONISM OF THE CLASS OF 1974. ALL MEMBERS KNOW THEIR BUSINESS AND HANDLED THEMSELVES IN A MANNER WHICH DID GREAT CREDIT TO THE CONGRESS. WE COULD USE MORE CODELS OF THIS CALIBRE.

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